

From: Stephen Reppucci
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 12:40pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I'm writing to voice my opposition regarding the proposed settlement of the US Department of Justice's antitrust case against Microsoft.

As a professional software developer, with over 20 years of experience in this field, I have watched Microsoft grow from a company which made marginally useful software into a colossus which uses its considerable weight to bully the software industry into making its products the only choice that a non-expert can turn to.

The proposed settlement does nothing to punish Microsoft for its past sins. From my understanding of the settlement, the most serious consequence for Microsoft in this settlement is that they are being asked to promise that they won't act in a non-competitive manner again. As history shows from past agreements from Microsoft, they have no fear of breaking promises such as this one as soon as the media focus shifts elsewhere and they feel they can again get away with their heavy-handed tactics.

Microsoft has an undeniable monopoly on the operating system market for Intel based PCs, a fact that has been determined by the courts, and one that's painfully obvious to me.

For further proof of this monopoly, I've personally had to pay for copies of Microsoft OSes four times in my life, even though I never use their operating systems. If one were to call Dell, Gateway, Compaq, or any of the other major PC vendors, and ask to buy a computer system without paying for a Microsoft operating system, they'd find that it's impossible to do. That is proof enough of a monopoly in my eyes.

Microsoft uses this operating system monopoly to advance the market share of other software applications it produces. The dominance of MS Office, Internet Explorer, Excel, and other applications, even in the presence of other applications that are at least as good, if not better than the MS products is further proof that Microsoft continues to use its monopoly.

The only reasonable settlement that I can envision breaking this cycle is to force Microsoft to split into two companies, one producing operating systems, and a separate one producing applications.

In addition, I'm in favor of seeing a settlement that punishes

Microsoft for its past sins. Allowing them to keep the money they made while behaving in an illegal manner is not a fair settlement to me.

Thank you for considering my opinion on this matter.

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